Claim Amendments

Claim 1 (currently amended): A switch for switching packets in a network

comprising:

a plurality of port cards which send packets to and receive packets from the

network; and

a plurality of fabrics connected to the port cards for switching portions of ~~the~~

~~packets~~ a packet as stripes and a parity stripe from which the ~~packets are~~ packet is

reconstructed with the parity stripe providing for error detection and correction, each fabric

having a plurality of queues in which portions of ~~packets~~ the packet as stripes are stored, each

queue corresponding to one of the port cards, each fabric having a determining mechanism

which determines which queue the portions of the packet as stripes should be placed in, the

determining mechanism is dynamic to reflect changes in the port card quantity without any

change in connection data of the ~~packets~~ packet.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A switch as described in Claim 1 wherein each

fabric has a memory controller having the queues and the determining mechanism.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A switch as described in Claim 2 wherein the determining mechanism includes an input lookup which identifies in which queue portions of the packet are placed.

Claim 4 (original): A switch as described in Claim 3 wherein the input lookup identifies more queues than are present in the switch.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A switch as described in Claim 4 wherein each fabric identifies which queues correspond to which output ports from a first signal it receives from the network.

Claim 6 (original): A switch as described in Claim 5 wherein the input lookup has a 10-bit field.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A switch as described in Claim 6 wherein each fabric receives a second signal which identifies which bits of the 10-bit field are to be used to identify the queue the portions of the packet are to be stored in.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A switch as described in Claim 6 wherein the 10-bit field comprises bits 0-7 which identifies the output port to which the queue connects and bits 8 and 9 identifies a priority of the portions of the packet.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A switch as described in Claim 7 wherein the second signal has a 2-bit field which indicate which 8 of the 10 bits of the input lookup are to be used to identify the queue the portions of the packet are to be stored in.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A switch as described in Claim 6 wherein the 8 bits of the 10 bits can be either bits 0-5, 8 and 9 which are 4 priorities on up to 64 output ports, or bits 0-6 and 8 which are 2 priorities up to 128 output ports, or bits 0-7 which are 1 priority up to 256 output ports.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A switch as described in Claim 10 wherein each fabric has an aggregator which receives portions of packets as stripes and connects to the memory controller, and a separator which connects to the memory controller and sends portions of the packets as stripes to the port cards.

Claim 12 (original): A switch as described in Claim 11 wherein the port card includes a striper which sends portions of packets as stripes to the aggregator of each fabric,

and an unstriper which receives portions of packets as stripes from the separator of each fabric.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A method for switching packets in a network comprising the steps of:

receiving packets at a plurality of port cards of a switch from the network;

sending portions of the packets as stripes to a respective number of fabrics of the switch;

storing the respective portions of packets in a plurality of queues of one fabric of the number of fabrics corresponding to port cards the portions of the packets are to be sent to by the respective fabrics;

sending the portions of packets as stripes to the port cards;

transmitting packets from the port cards to the network;

changing the number of port cards in the switch;

receiving additional packets at the port cards;

sending portions of the additional packets to the number of the fabrics after the number of the port cards has changed; and

storing the portions of the additional packets in the queues corresponding to the port cards the portions of the packets are to be sent to without any change to connection data in the packets.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A method as described in Claim 13 wherein the storing the respective portions step includes a step of looking up in an input lookup, which identifies in which queue portions of the packets are placed, which queue the portions of the packets are to be placed.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A method as described in Claim 14 including after the changing step, there is a step of receiving a first signal which identifies in which queues portions of the packets are to be placed.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A method as described in Claim 15 including after the receiving the first signal step, there is a step of receiving a second signal which

identifies which bits of a 10-bit field of the input lookup are to be used to identify the queue the portions of the packet are to be stored in.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A method as described in Claim 16 wherein the receiving the second signal step includes a step of reviewing a 2-bit field of the second signal which indicate which 8 of the 10 bits of the input lookup are to be used to identify the queue the portions of the packets are to be stored in.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A method as described in Claim 17 wherein each fabric has a memory controller having the queues and the sending portions of packets step includes a step of sending the stripes to an aggregator of each fabric which receives portions of packets and connects to the memory controller.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A method as described in Claim 18 wherein the sending portions of packets step includes a step of sending with a separator of the fabric which connects to the memory controller portions of the packets as stripes to the port cards.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A method as described in Claim 19 wherein the sending the stripes to an aggregator step includes a step of sending with a striper portions of packets as stripes to the aggregator of each fabric.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A method as described in Claim 20 wherein after the sending with the separator step, there is a step of receiving the stripes from the separator of each fabric at an unstriper of each port card.